

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims that have been examined. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 9, and 12, and cancel claims 4, 5, and 11. Hence, claims 1-3, 6-10, and 12 are all the claims pending in the Application.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on September 28, 2006 are approved.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 9 to correct a typographical error, and cancel claims 4, 5, and 11. Applicants submit that all rejections of claims 4 and 11 are therefore moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 12 to include the features of claims 4 and 5. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1 and 12 are allowable as amended, and respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

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